



84 MARYLAND STREET

JOHN JAMES WALLACE HOUSE

PREPARED BY PETERSON PROJECTS – FEBRUARY 2009



84 MARYLAND STREET JOHN JAMES WALLACE HOUSE

Date of Construction: 1907

Building Permit: UNKNOWN

Architect: Unknown

Contractor: Unknown

ARCHITECTURAL INTEREST:

Located on a corner lot, this home has two main façades, east and south and is very conspicuous because of its location and the level of detailing.

This frame structure is clad in horizontal wood siding and shingles and it features a two-storey bay window on the east façade and a plain entrance with bracketed hood. The south façade includes a two-storey porch; the open ground floor portion wraps around and runs a short distance along the east façade. The second level of this element is closed and clad in shingles. The gable roof includes a gable dormer on the south slope.

The building is a good example of a Queen Anne style structure.¹ The style borrowed heavily from English architecture of the 15th century, blending classical and medieval motifs into a picturesque form. Asymmetry was achieved through combinations of porches, bay



Front (east) façade, 1978

windows, projecting wings, balconies and other devices. Roofs were usually irregular and complex, with dormers, gables and ornamental chimneys. Variations in materials and colours were also used to animate the façades. Given this freedom of design, however, accomplished designers were still able to create balance in the structures, offsetting busy surfaces by placing calmer elements nearby.²

The popularity of the style in Canada began in the 1880s and lasted until World War I. On the prairies, pre-1900 examples of the style were not numerous because large-scale development occurred after the turn of the century. Post-1900, it was quickly adopted for use in the growing residential districts, especially the more affluent neighbourhoods where its showy qualities were greatly admired.

The home stands on its original site and appears to be in good structural condition. The home has not suffered major exterior alteration.

HISTORICAL INTEREST:

John J. Wallace, vice-president of Akins and Wallace Realty Company and president of Wallace and Akins Construction Company, owned and lived in this house with his wife Georgina and children George Crosby (a student, age 27 in 1925), Jennie Mildred (a clerk at City Lights, age 26, 1925) and Joseph William (student, age 30 in 1925) until ca.1925.³ E.O. and Thomas Aikins are listed as occupants in 1935.⁴

RECOMMENDATION TO HISTORICAL BUILDINGS COMMITTEE:

Under the Historical Buildings By-law, this building meets a number of important criteria:

- its historical importance- illustrative of the type of residential development occurring in Winnipeg's West End in the pre-World War I era;
- its associations- N/A;
- its design- an good example of the Queen Anne style;
- its architect- N/A;
- its location- contributes greatly to its historic streetscape; and
- its integrity- its main façades continue to display many of their original elements and design.

ENDNOTES:

- ¹ Identifying Architectural Styles in Manitoba (Winnipeg: Department of Culture, Heritage and Citizenship, 1991), p. 17; L. Maitland et al., A Guide to Canadian Architectural Styles (Peterborough: Broadview Press, 1992), p. 102; and L. Maitland, The Queen Anne Revival Style in Canadian Architecture (Ottawa: Environment Canada, 1990), p. 64.
- ² L. Maitland, op. cit., p. 98.
- ³ Canada Census, 1911.
- ⁴ City of Winnipeg Assessment Rolls, Roll No. 12-090072000, 1900-1940.